

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 ICAE-00

EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 EB-08 FAA-00

DOTE-00 COME-00 /070 W

-----122686 071741Z /53

O R 071710Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1488

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 2161

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN: REQUEST FOR AIR CHARTER

1. FONMIN BONGO TELEPHONED ME LATE THIS AFTERNOON TO ASK OUR HELP IN PUTTING GOG IN TOUCH WITH AMERICAN AIR CHARTER COMPANIES FOR PURPOSE OF EVACUATING BENINESE TO COTONOU. GABONESE WANT 747 OR DC-10. FONMIN EMPHASIZED THAT GABONESE WILL PAY FOR CHARTER AND FONMIN ASSURED ME THAT ALL HE WAS ASKING US TO DO WAS PROVIDE HIM WITH NAMES OF COMPANIES THAT THEY THEMSELVES COULD THEN CONTACT. USG WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED.

2. FYI ONLY: CALL IS UNQUESTIONABLY RESULT OF CONVERSATION HELD TODAY BETWEEN PRES. BONGO AND MAURICE TEMPELSMAN OF LEON TEMPELSMAN AND SONS, WHO, AS DEPT KNOWS, IS CONFIDENT OF PRESIDENT. TEMPELSMAN TOLD ME EARLIER TODAY THAT HE HAD STRONGLY ADVISED PRESIDENT TO TERMINATE BENINESE PROBLEM ASAP, THAT FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT GOING TO GET INVOLVED, AND THAT PRESIDENT'S MAIN RECOURSE SEEMED TO BE AIR CHARTERS AT GOG'S EXPENSE. PRESIDENT AGREED. END FYI.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD APPRECIATE NAMES AND
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ADDRESSES, INCLUDING TELEPHONE NUMBER, IF POSSIBLE, OF CHARTER SERVICE OF US COMPANIES HAVING 747S A/O DC-10S THAT MIGHT BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY BY GOG, FOR TRANSMISSION TO FONMIN BONGO ASAP. I SUSPECT, INCIDENTALLY, THAT WE ARE NOT ONLY ONES CONTACTED. PRESIDENT BONGO TOLD TEMPLESMAN HE THOUGH HE WOULD ASK NEW BRITISH AMBASSADOR FOR SAME INFO, AND IF FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAW PRESIDENT

TODAY, HE MAY WELL HAVE BEEN ASKED AS WELL. UTA HAS APPARENTLY FLOWN AT LEAST ONE CHARTER ALREADY.

4. COMMENT: ACOORDING TEMPLESMAN, HE HAD LONG DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT ON SUBJECT OF BENINESE AND CONVINCED HIM SOMETHING NEEDED BY DONE QUICKLY, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF BAD INCIDENT AUG 5. (LIBREVILLE 2152). TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PEPR, GB, DM
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